On behalf of the Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee (UGSAC), Dean Paul B. Woodruff has submitted the following motion to add College of Natural Science’s new Science for the 21st Century sequence (NSC 306J, 306K, 306L) to the core curriculum course list to the Undergraduate Catalog, 2008-2010. The secretary has classified this proposal as general legislation.

The proposed addition to the core course list was reviewed and approved by UGSAC during its meeting on December 17, 2008. If approved, this change will be effective immediately. NSC 306J, 306K, and 306L will, however, be subject to further UGSAC and Faculty Council review as the core course lists are developed for the 2010-2012 Undergraduate Catalog. The Faculty Council has the authority to approve this legislation on behalf of the General Faculty. The authority to grant final approval on this legislation resides with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

If no objection is filed with the Office of the General Faculty by the date specified below, the legislation will be held to have been approved by the Faculty Council. If an objection is filed within the prescribed period, the legislation will be presented to the Faculty Council at its next meeting. The objection, with reasons, must be signed by a member of the Faculty Council.

To be counted, a protest must be received in the Office of the General Faculty by noon on January 27, 2009.

Sue Alexander Greninger, Secretary
The Faculty Council and General Faculty

Distributed through the Faculty Council web site (www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/) on January 12, 2009. Copies are available on request from the Office of the General Faculty, WMB 2.102, F9500.

1 The School of Undergraduate Studies is requesting these changes during a mid-catalog period due to accreditation requirements and asks that they take effect in fall 2009.
MOTION TO UPDATE THE CORE CURRICULUM COURSE
LISTS FOR NATURAL SCIENCE PARTS I & II
FOR THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG, 2008-2010

Motion

On behalf of the Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee (UGSAC), the Dean of Undergraduate Studies requests approval to add the College of Natural Science’s new Science for the 21st Century sequence (NSC 306J, 306K, 306L) to the core curriculum course list. Students who complete all three courses will be deemed to have satisfied the Natural Science Part I (6-hour) and Natural Science Part II (3-hour) requirements of the core curriculum.

Background

This item was referred to UGSAC by the Committee on Undergraduate Degree Program Review (CUDPR), which approved related changes to the Bachelor of Science in Applied Learning and Development degree in the College of Education. (See D 6797-6801.) The revised degree program will require that students complete the Science for the 21st Century sequence, which the College of Education proposes to count toward the core curriculum. The proposed addition to the core course list was reviewed and approved by UGSAC during its meeting on December 17, 2008.

If approved, this change will be effective immediately. NSC 306J, 306K, and 306L will, however, be subject to further UGSAC and Faculty Council review as the core course lists are developed for the 2010-2012 Undergraduate Catalog.

Rationale

The Science for the 21st Century sequence is designed to introduce students to core concepts in the natural sciences: physics and chemistry in semester one, chemistry and geology in semester two, and biology in semester three. A fourth course, which may be added in the future, would deal with astronomy, optics, and the Earth’s climate.

These courses will lead students through a set of hands-on activities in which they will experience physical phenomena through observation and experiment and learn to articulate ideas in the natural sciences by referring to experimental data. The courses will encourage students to present scientific explanations to each other and to critique the explanations of their peers.

The Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee has determined that the Science for the 21st Century sequence meets the necessary educational objectives for the Natural Science Part I and II requirements of the core. Further, UGSAC believes that, because this three-course sequence covers material in several scientific disciplines, it meets the spirit of the requirement that students earn core science credit in more than one field of study.

This proposal is also in line with UGSAC’s plan to ensure that, in the future, all students satisfy the Natural Science Part I requirement by completing a coherent 6-hour sequence, in which the second course builds on material covered in the first.

NSC 306J, 306K, and 306L are currently restricted to education majors but will be opened to all students after the pilot phase. At that point, UGSAC believes that this sequence will serve as an exemplary core science experience for non-majors.